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Ronan Howlett of Middlebury Union Middle School Wins Statewide Spelling Bee

MONTPELIER – Ronan Howlett bested 42 other students from across Vermont to win the Vermont State Individual Spelling Bee on Wednesday, March 13, 2013. Howlett, an eighth grader from Middlebury Union Middle School, and last year's winner, will now compete against top spellers from every other state in the nation in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C. in June.

The winning word was “desultory,” an adjective which means “marked by absence of a plan; disconnected; jumping from one thing to another; digressing from the main subject; random.”

Emily Ballou, of South Royalton School, came in second. Nicholas Knudsen, of Frederick H Tuttle Middle School came in third.

In addition to advancing to the national spelling bee, Ronan Howlett received a trophy, an iPad and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., sponsored by FairPoint Communications, Vermont Lake Monsters, Burlington Free Press, Vermont Humanities Council, Vermont Principals Association and Vermont Agency of Education. For more information on the national bee, visit www.spellingbee.com.

Elementary and middle school students (through grade 8) under the age of 16 were eligible to participate in this competition. Students from across Vermont who participated in the bee already competed in their regional bees this winter.

Bob Johnson of the Vermont Principals' Association introduced the event, which was held in the McCarthy Arts Center at Saint Michael's College. Adam Silverman of the Burlington Free Press served as pronouncer for the event. Peter Gilbert, Executive Director, Vermont Humanities Council; Mike Smith, State President, FairPoint Communications; and John Fischer, Deputy Commissioner, Vermont Agency of Education served as judges this year. Linda Wrazen of the Vermont Humanities Council and Deputy Commissioner Fischer presented the awards.

For more information, contact Bob Johnson at the Vermont Principals' Association at (802) 229-0547, Angela Ross at the Vermont Agency of Education at (802) 828-3154 or Linda Wrazen at the Vermont Humanities Council at (802) 262-2626, ext. 309.

See the next page for a list of participants.

2013 Vermont State Spelling Bee Participants

Albany Community School	Autumn	Perron
Albert D Lawton Intermediate School	Isabelle	Petrucchi
Barre City Elementary Middle School	Carli	Harris
Barre Town Middle Elementary School	Julia	Jaminet
Bethel Elementary School	Grace	LaFromboise
Brighton Elementary School	Colby	Worth
Camels Hump Middle School	Becket	Hill
Charlotte Central School	Abigail	Postlewaite
Christ The King School	Esa	Anderson
Crossett Brook Middle School	Harley	Miller-Rowley
Danville School	Chelsea	Carcoba
Dority Home School	Finn	Dority
Dothan Brook School	Jessica	Paterson
Edmunds Middle School	Julia	Drummond
Flood Brook Union 20 Elementary School	Corynn	Wasyliko
Frederick H Tuttle Middle School	Nicholas	Knudsen
Harwood Union Middle/high School	Erin	Magill
Lyndon Town School	Kayanna	Burns
Main Street Middle School	Asa	Richardson-Skinder
Mater Christi School	Tracy	Ferguson
Middlebury Union Middle School	Ronan	Howlett
Mill River Union High School	Emily	Bushey
Milton Elementary School	Samuel	Dooley
Mt Anthony Union Middle School	Tucker	Beaudoin
NewBrook Elementary School	Fairen	Stark
Richford Junior Senior High School	Joseph	Wills
Riverside School	Kaci	Cochran
Rutland Intermediate School	William	Latkin
Shelburne Community School	Thomas	Daley
Shrewsbury Mountain Elementary School	Olivia	Suker
South Royalton School	Emily	Ballou
St. Mary School	Colin	Dowd
Stowe Middle High School	Rosalie	Wasser
Thaddeaus Stevens School	Lucinda	Storz
Thetford Academy	Raphael	Orleck-Jetter
Thetford Elementary School	Owen	Deffner
Tunbridge Central School	Connor	Lambert
Twin Valley Middle School	Dylan	Florence
Walden School	Azariah	Thoma
Waterford Elementary School	Lindsey	Wood
Westshire Elementary School	Logan	Garr
Williston Central School	Natalie	Durieux